

BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

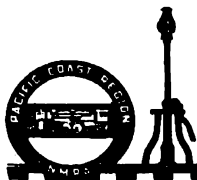
A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
PACIFIC COAST REGION,
NATIONAL MODEL
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The BRANCH LINE (USPS 870060, ISSN 07449771), is issued four times a year in the months of January, April, July, and October. Deadline for all materials is the fifteenth of the month preceding publication. No material will be returned unless requested and sufficient postage is provided. Membership in the PCR at \$6.00 includes a subscription to the BRANCH LINE. Separate subscriptions are available at \$4.00 per year. The BRANCH LINE is published by the Pacific Coast Region, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553. Second Class Postage paid at Martinez, CA 94553 and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER** Send address changes to: BRANCH LINE, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553

All comments about material contained in the Branch Line should be mailed directly to the Editor, 3408 Lanai Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583. Inquiries regarding membership application, renewal or change of address should be directed to the Member Services Chairman, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553.

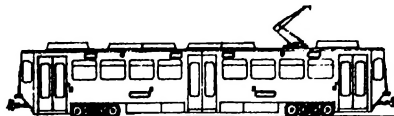
The BRANCH LINE is printed by Morris Family Printers, 727 Rideout Way, Marysville, CA 95901, (916) 742-6930

Contributors note:
Next Deadline is
MARCH 15, 1997
for the
APR - JUN 1998 ISSUE

Help Wanted - NMRA National Convention Committee, 21st Century Limited, 2000 in San Jose seeks the following:

Volunteers, all shapes and sizes, no prior experience necessary, enthusiastic modelers will have priority. Call Dave Biondi, (510) 656-4256.

Layouts, all scales, eras and prototypes. Club and home layouts welcome to apply. Contact Bill Kaufman, 623 Las Colindas, San Rafael, CA 94903 (415) 491-0543.



TRACTION IN ACTION

by Bill Everett

September came and I got to the California State Railroad Museum at Sacramento. Yes, the display is up. They did a beautiful job with the display, so now when you visit the museum be sure to view the two displays that are in front of the auditorium on the mezzanine level. One contains my traction models and one contains Bill Hoffman's models. These models are now the property of the museum. I have donated enough models so that the models can be rotated in the display from time to time. Twenty-two models are presently on display in my display.

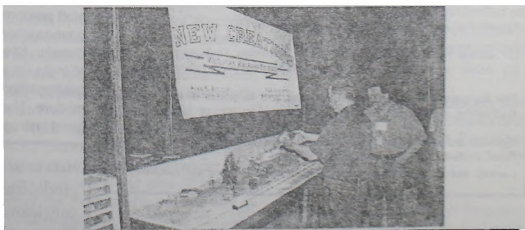
In October I attended the PSR convention at the Pomona Fairplex. I did not see any PCR members there, in fact they only had a total attendance of just over 100 persons. It was sad but they had a breakdown of members running the convention. There was no modules set up, nor merchants display. I enjoyed myself by going on layout drives, but the whole convention was a let-down, however, the hotel was the best - food and service were superior.

In November I ventured to San Diego. The Electrical Railway Historical Soci-

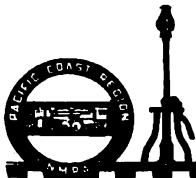
ety of San Diego chartered a three car set of LRV's. We rode all day and covered the new mission valley west line that was set to open one week later. Then we went out the El Cajon line and also toured the shops and yards. San Diego now has a total of 123 LRV sets and business is very good. It's so good to see such a well run system with the employee pride, which shows. All the cars look like new, even the original cars. They were completely rebuilding one original car which had been in an accident.

My next project will be to build a model of the new 3 section low level LRV's being built for Tri-met in Portland. These will be the first low level cars to operate in the United States. These cars are being built by the Siemens Duewag Co. of Germany, however the cars are being assembled at their plant in Sacramento. The cars sit so close to the ground that no steps or platforms are required at the stops. I was able to secure a set of drawings from Siemens Duewag.

As I write this article 1998 is almost here. Hope to see all of you at Modesto. And don't forget to enter your traction model in the traction contest. That is what it's all about!



Alan Rogers at the 1997 PCR Train Show in Bakersfield with a new line of beautiful, built-up structure kits. You'll want to be there in Modesto in 1998 for the many "goddies" that will be displayed. Photo by Rod Smith



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover

used carpenters yellow glue for all wood to wood, cardboard or paper joints and medium viscosity ACC for all metal to metal or wood and for adding the glazing. I dry-brushed the siding material with very light strokes of Antique White and the trim pieces with equally light strokes of Tuscan, this over the pre-stained alcohol weathering. I high-lighted the nail holes I had previously made with a raw ochre artists pencil to simulate rust stains. Unfinished wood surfaces (decks and sliding doors) were left in just the weathered wood look. After the roof was finished I went back over some parts of the completed model with a light mixture of the ink and alcohol mixture to blend everything in. The final steps are adding signs, lighting if you desire and the many fine castings - after you complete their final painting.



This small building uses less than 4" X 5" and is generic enough to be used for a wide range of small, rail served, distributors. I'm anxious to get my model on the layout because, like all Builders in Scale models, it is a real scene stealer.

Builders in Scale is located at PO Box 441432, Aurora, CO and produce a wonderful selection of marvelous limited run structures along with 14 of these Evening Express Kits. They also produce Model Foundry kits in O, a complete line of O scale white metal castings, a wide selection of scratchbuilding and detailing parts and the well known line of Switchmaster slow motion switch machines.

Sorry Charlie, but this "dig" was just too good to pass up!

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Jack Burgess, MMR
PCR Achievement Chairperson

A requirement of any of the categories of the Achievement Program is completion and submission of a Statement of Qualifications, or SOQ. The basic SOQ includes a description of the work accomplished by the modeler in compliance with the category requirements, and possibly a witness affidavit by two or more NMRA members affirming that the work listed was completed. In some cases, the SOQ must be accompanied by other documentation listing how the category accomplishments were completed.

No one likes paper work, especially when it is related to a hobby effort and doesn't seem to contribute to their hobby skills. It is often stated as the sole reason for not participating in the Achievement Program. (Sound familiar? I have heard the same comments as an excuse for not entering the modeling contest!)

However, without this documentation, there is no way to know what a modeler has done, especially when there are certain standards for participation in the Achievement Program. The Achievement Program is designed to encourage better modeling, increase a modeler's overall skills, and to recognize outstanding work. It is not a program to simply indicate what a modeler has completed - the work must stand above the norm. If a modeler really wants to participate in this program, they need to take the few minutes necessary to complete the required documentation.

Most SOQs can be quite simple to complete. For example, the Master Builder - Cars certificate requires that you build eight operable scale models of railroad cars (with at least four different types of cars represented, each one super-detailed, and at least four of which are scratch-built), and you must score at least 87 1/2 points on four of the eight models. The SOQ therefore must list these eight models by description (B&O 40' boxcar, etc.) Since you must receive at least 87 1/2 points for half of the models, the easiest way to satisfy that requirement is to enter them in a

divisional or regional modeling contest which uses the standard NMRA scoring system. At Coast Division meets, for example, models can be entered for scoring purposes only and not in the actual competition if desired. Attaching copies of the model contest judging forms is an easy way to document this portion of the requirements. If you enter all eight models in modeling contests, attaching the model contest judging forms can easily satisfy the entire documentation portion of the requirements by listing the amount of work done, listing the super-detailing effort, etc.

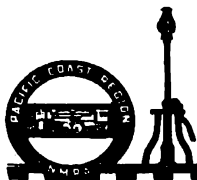
Some AP categories, such as Master Builder - Scenery, also require that you document how you satisfied the category requirements with a description of the work completed. This can be in a simple outline form if desired. However, you might take the tack of Boone Morrison who has completed a series of articles for the *Narrow Gauge* and *Short Line Gazette* outlining his scenery, trackwork, and control systems, and then attached copies of those articles to satisfy the documentation phase. Those articles then completed the requirements for Model Railroad Author!

If you are struggling with completion of the documentation phase of an AP Certificate, let me know and I will provide samples of other applications to help you.

I am happy to report that two more AP Certificates have been awarded by the Achievement Program Chairman to PCR members. Judith B. Malloch, the AP Chairman for the Hawaii Division, has been awarded a certificate for Model Railroad Author. Gil Stratton, who has been active in the Coast Division Contest program, has been awarded a certificate for Master Builder - Cars. Congratulations to both of you!

In November, four more Golden Spike awards were made. They were awarded to Charles Pigott Jr., Jim North, Fred Alberts, and Sydney Mason, all in the Daylight Division.

If you are interested in the AP Program or Golden Spike Program, contact me for more details. My phone number, address and e-mail address are listed in the Call Board on Page 2.



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

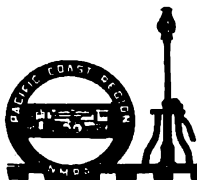
A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

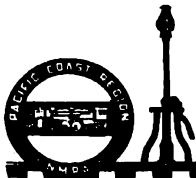
A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

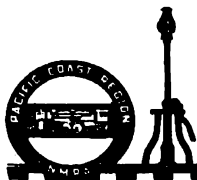
A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

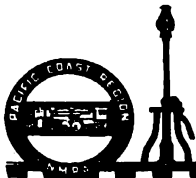
A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

(July - November 1997)

OUT OF REGION

Rick Allen	Foothill Ranch, CA
Ken Allen	San Marcos, CA
Charles Hart	Poway, CA
Gus Mistrot	Houston, TX
Bernice Mistrot	Houston, TX
Al Siatlila	Lake Havasu City, AZ

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

J Richard Campbell	Lake Isabella, CA
John Drazin	Bakersfield, CA
Arbutus Moelrath	Dos Palos, CA
Roger Nickell	Ridgecrest, CA
Adam Otten	Bakersfield, CA
Alan Rogers	Bakersfield, CA
Russell Shervem Jr	Fresno, CA
Ken Thompson	Atwater, CA
Shirley Thompson	Atwater, CA
Tammie Wagner	Bakersfield, CA
Bea Zavattari	Visalia, CA

COAST DIVISION

Bob Bell	San Jose, CA
W Cameron Coltharp	San Francisco, CA
Douglas Coward	Fremont, CA
Al Dalcher	Los Gatos, CA
Robert Fimms	Redwood City, CA
Ricardo Fogel	Fremont, CA
Richard Gill	Benicia, CA
Byron Henderson	San Jose, CA
Agustin Higareda	San Jose, CA
Robert Jackson	Fremont, CA
Bruce Jahn	Livermore, CA
Richard Jayne	Sunnyvale, CA
Michael Laine	San Jose, CA
Todd Levy	San Francisco, CA
John Macy	San Leandro, CA
Gary McCurdy	Pacifica, CA
Robert Novak	Hayward, CA
Anne Ogborn	San Jose, CA
Christopher Palermo	Redwood City, CA
George Pinsonneault	Aptos, CA
Donald Pomplun	San Ramon, CA
Leo Prescott	Hayward, CA
Ken Reiter	San Jose, CA
Adrianus Schrauwen	Palo Alto, CA
Horner Sterios	Alameda, CA
Frederick Trapnell	Los Altos Hills, CA
Jan Van Der Veen	Fremont, CA
Richard Wagner	San Francisco, CA
Tom Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
Mrs Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
David Woo	San Francisco, CA
Emmet Zaworski	San Jose, CA

SIERRA DIVISION

Robert Borger	Sacramento, CA
Mel Foster	Tracy, CA
Myles Gray	Gold River, CA
Peter Hahn	Reno, NV
John Hoffmann	Modesto, CA
Alfred Houston	Fair Oaks, CA
Carson City RR Assoc	Carson City, NV
Robert Robson	Antelope, CA
James Siegel	Gold River, CA
Allan Smith	Sonoma, CA

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Albert Ballinger	Fairfield, CA
Willy Fogg	Fortuna, CA
Morgan Griffiths	Corte Madera, CA
Richard Hendrickson	Cotati, CA
Scott Lyall	Willits, CA
Ron Plies	Fortuna, CA
Harold Rueckert	Santa Rosa, CA

HAWAIIAN DIVISION

Richard Gaspard	Honolulu, HI
-----------------	--------------

Invite your model
railroading friends to
join the NMRA - PCR.
Use the application on
page 23 of this issue
to sign them up.

**MEMBERSHIP - it's
everybody's job!**

MEMBERSHIP

By Carl "Tiny" Carsten
PCR Membership Promotion Chair-
person

To begin with I would like to thank all the conscientious members who gave up their time to help with membership booths at the shows this past quarter, the GATS shows, Greenberg Shows and International Railfair. You all did your best in helping me and I certainly appreciate all the help I can get. Please remember that we still have numerous GATS shows scheduled for 1998 (Jan 24 & 25 in Sacramento, February 13 & 14 in Daly City and March 13 & 14 in Stockton as well as another Greenberg Show next December 5 and 6, 1998.

As President Charlie Getz says, "Carl needs help". And I agree with him, I do. That is at all the shows I have us signed up for and so far they have all been authorized as listed. We really need more new members and with the new dues increase it might be harder to convince people, so we have to try harder.

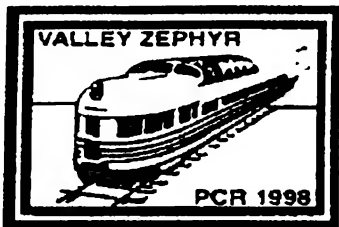
So far membership is steady with a few ups and downs but is in a holding pattern. Lets not let it slip. Renew as soon as you get your notice. I thank you.

The annual PCR Convention is one of your most valuable member benefits. Sign up for '98 now! See pages 12-18!

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

as of December 1, 1997

	<u>REG</u>	<u>FAM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAYLIGHT	107	15	122
COAST	580	32	612
SIERRA	184	12	196
REDWOOD EMPIRE	128	9	137
HAWAIIAN	13	0	13
OUT OF REGION	<u>120</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>122</u>
TOTAL	1132	70	1202



"ALL ABOARD" the VALLEY ZEPHYR 98

1998 PCR CONVENTION
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 29 - MAY 3, 1998

The PCR has traditionally had some great Conventions, the **VALLEY ZEPHYR 98** will continue that tradition. The Convention will be held at the beautiful DoubleTree Hotel in Downtown Modesto, California. The accommodations are "first class".

At the Convention Hotel/Center:

- Clinics: more than 20 on a wide variety of Prototype and Modeling topics
- Train Show: modular and display layouts, and commercial exhibits
- Auction: administered by the Coast Division
- Contests: NIMRA and Favorite Train popular vote
- Hobo Breakfast
- Sunday Breakfast
- Videos
- Special activities for young Model Railroaders

At other locations:

- Prototype Tours: UP Tour, M&ET/ST&E Tour
- California State Railroad Museum Tour
- Bar-B-Q/Banquet
- Sierra Railroad Train Ride and Shop Tour
- Layout Tours: Nearly 30 layouts will be open

Non-rail activities:

- Art Gallery and Exhibit
- Local History Tour and Walk
- Hershey Chocolate Factory Tour
- Games and Hospitality Room
- Luncheon



The Convention Car is an accurate HO scale model of the prototype Foster Farms grain hopper. It is available with six different numbers, so you can own one, two, or a fleet. See order form on page 18 or call (209) 669-6816 for more information on these cars.

Photo by Don Schmitt



The DoubleTree Hotel towers over Downtown Modesto. The old Tidewater Southern (now UP) track runs down the middle of 9th Street. The Southern Pacific (now UP) main line is out of the picture to the left.

Photo by Don Schmitt



GP40#677 (formerly MKT 242 and organically CR 3122) leads a train southbound on 9th Street in 1996. The bridge over the train is the walkway between the DoubleTree Hotel and the parking garage.

Photo by Forest Jackson

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98 SECTION INDEX

Plan now on attending another great PCR Convention, this years it is **VALLEY ZEPHYR '98** to be held at the Modesto Convention Center and Double Tree Inn, adjacent to a whole world of prototype railroading. We've included a lot of information in this section to help you find reasons to join us in Modesto April 29th to May 3rd. Below is an index of what is here:

General Convention Information	Page 12 & 13
Registration Desk Hours	Page 13
Youth Activities	Page 14
Non-Rail Tours	Page 14
Clinics	Page 14
Special Contest	Page 14
Layout Tours	Page 15
Prototype Tours	Page 16
Registration Application	Page 17 & 18
Quilt Patches Needed	Page 19

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98 REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

by Ed Pultz, Registrar

Wed., Apr 29	10:00 a.m. till 9:00 p.m.
Thur., Apr 30	8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.
Fri., May 1	8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.
Sat., May 2	8:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

Send in your registration form (see pages 17 & 18) today to:

**Ed Pultz, Registrar
Valley Zephyr '98
P.O. Box 8398
Woodland, CA 95776-8398**

All photos this page by Don Schmitt



Modesto & Empire Traction GE 70 tonners #604 and #605 on the "Main Line" along Yosemite Street. Trains are hard to follow because most switching operations are far from public access.



The former Southern Pacific Station is one block from the Hotel. It is now the Modesto Transportation Center, but the only trains are the freights highballing on the UP (former SP) mainline.



This former ATSF steam locomotive is on display in nearby Beard Brook Park. There is a proposal to sell it to an organization which is capable of restoring it to operating condition.



VALLEY ZEPHYR '98 fun for Model Railroaders of all ages.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

(July - November 1997)

OUT OF REGION

Rick Allen	Foothill Ranch, CA
Ken Allen	San Marcos, CA
Charles Hart	Poway, CA
Gus Mistrot	Houston, TX
Bernice Mistrot	Houston, TX
Al Siatlila	Lake Havasu City, AZ

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

J Richard Campbell	Lake Isabella, CA
John Drazin	Bakersfield, CA
Arbutus Moelrath	Dos Palos, CA
Roger Nickell	Ridgecrest, CA
Adam Otten	Bakersfield, CA
Alan Rogers	Bakersfield, CA
Russell Shervem Jr	Fresno, CA
Ken Thompson	Atwater, CA
Shirley Thompson	Atwater, CA
Tammie Wagner	Bakersfield, CA
Bea Zavattari	Visalia, CA

COAST DIVISION

Bob Bell	San Jose, CA
W Cameron Coltharp	San Francisco, CA
Douglas Coward	Fremont, CA
Al Dalcher	Los Gatos, CA
Robert Fimms	Redwood City, CA
Ricardo Fogel	Fremont, CA
Richard Gill	Benicia, CA
Byron Henderson	San Jose, CA
Agustin Higareda	San Jose, CA
Robert Jackson	Fremont, CA
Bruce Jahn	Livermore, CA
Richard Jayne	Sunnyvale, CA
Michael Laine	San Jose, CA
Todd Levy	San Francisco, CA
John Macy	San Leandro, CA
Gary McCurdy	Pacificia, CA
Robert Novak	Hayward, CA
Anne Ogborn	San Jose, CA
Christopher Palermo	Redwood City, CA
George Pinsonneault	Aptos, CA
Donald Pomplun	San Ramon, CA
Leo Prescott	Hayward, CA
Ken Reiter	San Jose, CA
Adrianus Schrauwen	Palo Alto, CA
Horner Sterios	Alameda, CA
Frederick Trapnell	Los Altos Hills, CA
Jan Van Der Veen	Fremont, CA
Richard Wagner	San Francisco, CA
Tom Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
Mrs Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
David Woo	San Francisco, CA
Emmet Zaworski	San Jose, CA

SIERRA DIVISION

Robert Borger	Sacramento, CA
Mel Foster	Tracy, CA
Myles Gray	Gold River, CA
Peter Hahn	Reno, NV
John Hoffmann	Modesto, CA
Alfred Houston	Fair Oaks, CA
Carson City RR Assoc	Carson City, NV
Robert Robson	Antelope, CA
James Siegel	Gold River, CA
Allan Smith	Sonoma, CA

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Albert Ballinger	Fairfield, CA
Willy Fogg	Fortuna, CA
Morgan Griffiths	Corte Madera, CA
Richard Hendrickson	Cotati, CA
Scott Lyall	Willits, CA
Ron Plies	Fortuna, CA
Harold Rueckert	Santa Rosa, CA

HAWAIIAN DIVISION

Richard Gaspard	Honolulu, HI
-----------------	--------------

Invite your model
railroading friends to
join the NMRA - PCR.
Use the application on
page 23 of this issue
to sign them up.

**MEMBERSHIP - it's
everybody's job!**

MEMBERSHIP

By Carl "Tiny" Carsten
PCR Membership Promotion Chair-
person

To begin with I would like to thank all the conscientious members who gave up their time to help with membership booths at the shows this past quarter, the GATS shows, Greenberg Shows and International Railfair. You all did your best in helping me and I certainly appreciate all the help I can get. Please remember that we still have numerous GATS shows scheduled for 1998 (Jan 24 & 25 in Sacramento, February 13 & 14 in Daly City and March 13 & 14 in Stockton as well as another Greenberg Show next December 5 and 6, 1998.

As President Charlie Getz says, "Carl needs help". And I agree with him, I do. That is at all the shows I have us signed up for and so far they have all been authorized as listed. We really need more new members and with the new dues increase it might be harder to convince people, so we have to try harder.

So far membership is steady with a few ups and downs but is in a holding pattern. Lets not let it slip. Renew as soon as you get your notice. I thank you.

The annual PCR Convention is one of your most valuable member benefits. Sign up for '98 now! See pages 12-18!

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

as of December 1, 1997

	<u>REG</u>	<u>FAM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAYLIGHT	107	15	122
COAST	580	32	612
SIERRA	184	12	196
REDWOOD EMPIRE	128	9	137
HAWAIIAN	13	0	13
OUT OF REGION	<u>120</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>122</u>
TOTAL	1132	70	1202

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

(July - November 1997)

OUT OF REGION

Rick Allen	Foothill Ranch, CA
Ken Allen	San Marcos, CA
Charles Hart	Poway, CA
Gus Mistrot	Houston, TX
Bernice Mistrot	Houston, TX
Al Siatlita	Lake Havasu City, AZ

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

J Richard Campbell	Lake Isabella, CA
John Drazin	Bakersfield, CA
Arbutus Moelrath	Dos Palos, CA
Roger Nickell	Ridgecrest, CA
Adam Otten	Bakersfield, CA
Alan Rogers	Bakersfield, CA
Russell Shervem Jr	Fresno, CA
Ken Thompson	Atwater, CA
Shirley Thompson	Atwater, CA
Tammie Wagner	Bakersfield, CA
Bea Zavattari	Visalia, CA

COAST DIVISION

Bob Bell	San Jose, CA
W Cameron Coltharp	San Francisco, CA
Douglas Coward	Fremont, CA
Al Dalcher	Los Gatos, CA
Robert Fimms	Redwood City, CA
Ricardo Fogel	Fremont, CA
Richard Gill	Benicia, CA
Byron Henderson	San Jose, CA
Agustin Higareda	San Jose, CA
Robert Jackson	Fremont, CA
Bruce Jahn	Livermore, CA
Richard Jayne	Sunnyvale, CA
Michael Laine	San Jose, CA
Todd Levy	San Francisco, CA
John Macy	San Leandro, CA
Gary McCurdy	Pacificia, CA
Robert Novak	Hayward, CA
Anne Ogborn	San Jose, CA
Christopher Palermo	Redwood City, CA
George Pinsonneault	Aptos, CA
Donald Pomplun	San Ramon, CA
Leo Prescott	Hayward, CA
Ken Reiter	San Jose, CA
Adrianus Schrauwen	Palo Alto, CA
Horner Sterios	Alameda, CA
Frederick Trapnell	Los Altos Hills, CA
Jan Van Der Veen	Fremont, CA
Richard Wagner	San Francisco, CA
Tom Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
Mrs Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
David Woo	San Francisco, CA
Emmet Zaworski	San Jose, CA

SIERRA DIVISION

Robert Borger	Sacramento, CA
Mel Foster	Tracy, CA
Myles Gray	Gold River, CA
Peter Hahn	Reno, NV
John Hoffmann	Modesto, CA
Alfred Houston	Fair Oaks, CA
Carson City RR Assoc	Carson City, NV
Robert Robson	Antelope, CA
James Siegel	Gold River, CA
Allan Smith	Sonoma, CA

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Albert Ballinger	Fairfield, CA
Willy Fogg	Fortuna, CA
Morgan Griffiths	Corte Madera, CA
Richard Hendrickson	Cotati, CA
Scott Lyall	Willits, CA
Ron Plies	Fortuna, CA
Harold Rueckert	Santa Rosa, CA

HAWAIIAN DIVISION

Richard Gaspard	Honolulu, HI
-----------------	--------------

Invite your model
railroading friends to
join the NMRA - PCR.
Use the application on
page 23 of this issue
to sign them up.

MEMBERSHIP - it's
everybody's job!

MEMBERSHIP

By Carl "Tiny" Carsten
PCR Membership Promotion Chair-
person

To begin with I would like to thank all the conscientious members who gave up their time to help with membership booths at the shows this past quarter, the GATS shows, Greenberg Shows and International Railfair. You all did your best in helping me and I certainly appreciate all the help I can get. Please remember that we still have numerous GATS shows scheduled for 1998 (Jan 24 & 25 in Sacramento, February 13 & 14 in Daly City and March 13 & 14 in Stockton as well as another Greenberg Show next December 5 and 6, 1998.

As President Charlie Getz says, "Carl needs help". And I agree with him, I do. That is at all the shows I have us signed up for and so far they have all been authorized as listed. We really need more new members and with the new dues increase it might be harder to convince people, so we have to try harder.

So far membership is steady with a few ups and downs but is in a holding pattern. Lets not let it slip. Renew as soon as you get your notice. I thank you.

The annual PCR Convention is one of your most valuable member benefits. Sign up for '98 now! See pages 12-18!

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

as of December 1, 1997

	<u>REG</u>	<u>FAM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAYLIGHT	107	15	122
COAST	580	32	612
SIERRA	184	12	196
REDWOOD EMPIRE	128	9	137
HAWAIIAN	13	0	13
OUT OF REGION	<u>120</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>122</u>
TOTAL	1132	70	1202

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

(July - November 1997)

OUT OF REGION

Rick Allen	Foothill Ranch, CA
Ken Allen	San Marcos, CA
Charles Hart	Poway, CA
Gus Mistrot	Houston, TX
Bernice Mistrot	Houston, TX
Al Siatlila	Lake Havasu City, AZ

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

J Richard Campbell	Lake Isabella, CA
John Drazin	Bakersfield, CA
Arbutus Moelrath	Dos Palos, CA
Roger Nickell	Ridgecrest, CA
Adam Otten	Bakersfield, CA
Alan Rogers	Bakersfield, CA
Russell Shervem Jr	Fresno, CA
Ken Thompson	Atwater, CA
Shirley Thompson	Atwater, CA
Tammie Wagner	Bakersfield, CA
Bea Zavattari	Visalia, CA

COAST DIVISION

Bob Bell	San Jose, CA
W Cameron Coltharp	San Francisco, CA
Douglas Coward	Fremont, CA
Al Dalcher	Los Gatos, CA
Robert Fimms	Redwood City, CA
Ricardo Fogel	Fremont, CA
Richard Gill	Benicia, CA
Byron Henderson	San Jose, CA
Agustin Higareda	San Jose, CA
Robert Jackson	Fremont, CA
Bruce Jahn	Livermore, CA
Richard Jayne	Sunnyvale, CA
Michael Laine	San Jose, CA
Todd Levy	San Francisco, CA
John Macy	San Leandro, CA
Gary McCurdy	Pacificia, CA
Robert Novak	Hayward, CA
Anne Ogborn	San Jose, CA
Christopher Palermo	Redwood City, CA
George Pinsonneault	Aptos, CA
Donald Pomplun	San Ramon, CA
Leo Prescott	Hayward, CA
Ken Reiter	San Jose, CA
Adrianus Schrauwen	Palo Alto, CA
Horner Sterios	Alameda, CA
Frederick Trapnell	Los Altos Hills, CA
Jan Van Der Veen	Fremont, CA
Richard Wagner	San Francisco, CA
Tom Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
Mrs Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
David Woo	San Francisco, CA
Emmet Zaworski	San Jose, CA

SIERRA DIVISION

Robert Borger	Sacramento, CA
Mel Foster	Tracy, CA
Myles Gray	Gold River, CA
Peter Hahn	Reno, NV
John Hoffmann	Modesto, CA
Alfred Houston	Fair Oaks, CA
Carson City RR Assoc	Carson City, NV
Robert Robson	Antelope, CA
James Siegel	Gold River, CA
Allan Smith	Sonoma, CA

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Albert Ballinger	Fairfield, CA
Willy Fogg	Fortuna, CA
Morgan Griffiths	Corte Madera, CA
Richard Hendrickson	Cotati, CA
Scott Lyall	Willits, CA
Ron Plies	Fortuna, CA
Harold Rueckert	Santa Rosa, CA

HAWAIIAN DIVISION

Richard Gaspard	Honolulu, HI
-----------------	--------------

Invite your model
railroading friends to
join the NMRA - PCR.
Use the application on
page 23 of this issue
to sign them up.

**MEMBERSHIP - it's
everybody's job!**

MEMBERSHIP

By Carl "Tiny" Carsten
PCR Membership Promotion Chair-
person

To begin with I would like to thank all the conscientious members who gave up their time to help with membership booths at the shows this past quarter, the GATS shows, Greenberg Shows and International Railfair. You all did your best in helping me and I certainly appreciate all the help I can get. Please remember that we still have numerous GATS shows scheduled for 1998 (Jan 24 & 25 in Sacramento, February 13 & 14 in Daly City and March 13 & 14 in Stockton as well as another Greenberg Show next December 5 and 6, 1998.

As President Charlie Getz says, "Carl needs help". And I agree with him, I do. That is at all the shows I have us signed up for and so far they have all been authorized as listed. We really need more new members and with the new dues increase it might be harder to convince people, so we have to try harder.

So far membership is steady with a few ups and downs but is in a holding pattern. Lets not let it slip. Renew as soon as you get your notice. I thank you.

The annual PCR Convention is one of your most valuable member benefits. Sign up for '98 now! See pages 12-18!

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

as of December 1, 1997

	<u>REG</u>	<u>FAM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAYLIGHT	107	15	122
COAST	580	32	612
SIERRA	184	12	196
REDWOOD EMPIRE	128	9	137
HAWAIIAN	13	0	13
OUT OF REGION	<u>120</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>122</u>
TOTAL	1132	70	1202

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

(July - November 1997)

OUT OF REGION

Rick Allen	Foothill Ranch, CA
Ken Allen	San Marcos, CA
Charles Hart	Poway, CA
Gus Mistrot	Houston, TX
Bernice Mistrot	Houston, TX
Al Siatlita	Lake Havasu City, AZ

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

J Richard Campbell	Lake Isabella, CA
John Drazin	Bakersfield, CA
Arbutus Moelrath	Dos Palos, CA
Roger Nickell	Ridgecrest, CA
Adam Otten	Bakersfield, CA
Alan Rogers	Bakersfield, CA
Russell Shervem Jr	Fresno, CA
Ken Thompson	Atwater, CA
Shirley Thompson	Atwater, CA
Tammie Wagner	Bakersfield, CA
Bea Zavattari	Visalia, CA

COAST DIVISION

Bob Bell	San Jose, CA
W Cameron Coltharp	San Francisco, CA
Douglas Coward	Fremont, CA
Al Dalcher	Los Gatos, CA
Robert Fimms	Redwood City, CA
Ricardo Fogel	Fremont, CA
Richard Gill	Benicia, CA
Byron Henderson	San Jose, CA
Agustin Higareda	San Jose, CA
Robert Jackson	Fremont, CA
Bruce Jahn	Livermore, CA
Richard Jayne	Sunnyvale, CA
Michael Laine	San Jose, CA
Todd Levy	San Francisco, CA
John Macy	San Leandro, CA
Gary McCurdy	Pacificia, CA
Robert Novak	Hayward, CA
Anne Ogborn	San Jose, CA
Christopher Palermo	Redwood City, CA
George Pinsonneault	Aptos, CA
Donald Pomplun	San Ramon, CA
Leo Prescott	Hayward, CA
Ken Reiter	San Jose, CA
Adrianus Schrauwen	Palo Alto, CA
Horner Sterios	Alameda, CA
Frederick Trapnell	Los Altos Hills, CA
Jan Van Der Veen	Fremont, CA
Richard Wagner	San Francisco, CA
Tom Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
Mrs Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
David Woo	San Francisco, CA
Emmet Zaworski	San Jose, CA

SIERRA DIVISION

Robert Borger	Sacramento, CA
Mel Foster	Tracy, CA
Myles Gray	Gold River, CA
Peter Hahn	Reno, NV
John Hoffmann	Modesto, CA
Alfred Houston	Fair Oaks, CA
Carson City RR Assoc	Carson City, NV
Robert Robson	Antelope, CA
James Siegel	Gold River, CA
Allan Smith	Sonoma, CA

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Albert Ballinger	Fairfield, CA
Willy Fogg	Fortuna, CA
Morgan Griffiths	Corte Madera, CA
Richard Hendrickson	Cotati, CA
Scott Lyall	Willits, CA
Ron Plies	Fortuna, CA
Harold Rueckert	Santa Rosa, CA

HAWAIIAN DIVISION

Richard Gaspard	Honolulu, HI
-----------------	--------------

Invite your model
railroading friends to
join the NMRA - PCR.
Use the application on
page 23 of this issue
to sign them up.

MEMBERSHIP - it's
everybody's job!

MEMBERSHIP

By Carl "Tiny" Carsten
PCR Membership Promotion Chair-
person

To begin with I would like to thank all the conscientious members who gave up their time to help with membership booths at the shows this past quarter, the GATS shows, Greenberg Shows and International Railfair. You all did your best in helping me and I certainly appreciate all the help I can get. Please remember that we still have numerous GATS shows scheduled for 1998 (Jan 24 & 25 in Sacramento, February 13 & 14 in Daly City and March 13 & 14 in Stockton as well as another Greenberg Show next December 5 and 6, 1998.

As President Charlie Getz says, "Carl needs help". And I agree with him, I do. That is at all the shows I have us signed up for and so far they have all been authorized as listed. We really need more new members and with the new dues increase it might be harder to convince people, so we have to try harder.

So far membership is steady with a few ups and downs but is in a holding pattern. Lets not let it slip. Renew as soon as you get your notice. I thank you.

The annual PCR Convention is one of your most valuable member benefits. Sign up for '98 now! See pages 12-18!

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

as of December 1, 1997

	<u>REG</u>	<u>FAM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAYLIGHT	107	15	122
COAST	580	32	612
SIERRA	184	12	196
REDWOOD EMPIRE	128	9	137
HAWAIIAN	13	0	13
OUT OF REGION	<u>120</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>122</u>
TOTAL	1132	70	1202

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

(July - November 1997)

OUT OF REGION

Rick Allen	Foothill Ranch, CA
Ken Allen	San Marcos, CA
Charles Hart	Poway, CA
Gus Mistrot	Houston, TX
Bernice Mistrot	Houston, TX
Al Siatlita	Lake Havasu City, AZ

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

J Richard Campbell	Lake Isabella, CA
John Drazin	Bakersfield, CA
Arbutus Moelrath	Dos Palos, CA
Roger Nickell	Ridgecrest, CA
Adam Otten	Bakersfield, CA
Alan Rogers	Bakersfield, CA
Russell Shervem Jr	Fresno, CA
Ken Thompson	Atwater, CA
Shirley Thompson	Atwater, CA
Tammie Wagner	Bakersfield, CA
Bea Zavattari	Visalia, CA

COAST DIVISION

Bob Bell	San Jose, CA
W Cameron Coltharp	San Francisco, CA
Douglas Coward	Fremont, CA
Al Dalcher	Los Gatos, CA
Robert Fimms	Redwood City, CA
Ricardo Fogel	Fremont, CA
Richard Gill	Benicia, CA
Byron Henderson	San Jose, CA
Agustin Higareda	San Jose, CA
Robert Jackson	Fremont, CA
Bruce Jahn	Livermore, CA
Richard Jayne	Sunnyvale, CA
Michael Laine	San Jose, CA
Todd Levy	San Francisco, CA
John Macy	San Leandro, CA
Gary McCurdy	Pacificia, CA
Robert Novak	Hayward, CA
Anne Ogborn	San Jose, CA
Christopher Palermo	Redwood City, CA
George Pinsonneault	Aptos, CA
Donald Pomplun	San Ramon, CA
Leo Prescott	Hayward, CA
Ken Reiter	San Jose, CA
Adrianus Schrauwen	Palo Alto, CA
Horner Sterios	Alameda, CA
Frederick Trapnell	Los Altos Hills, CA
Jan Van Der Veen	Fremont, CA
Richard Wagner	San Francisco, CA
Tom Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
Mrs Wolftrum	Orinda, CA
David Woo	San Francisco, CA
Emmet Zaworski	San Jose, CA

SIERRA DIVISION

Robert Borger	Sacramento, CA
Mel Foster	Tracy, CA
Myles Gray	Gold River, CA
Peter Hahn	Reno, NV
John Hoffmann	Modesto, CA
Alfred Houston	Fair Oaks, CA
Carson City RR Assoc	Carson City, NV
Robert Robson	Antelope, CA
James Siegel	Gold River, CA
Allan Smith	Sonoma, CA

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

Albert Ballinger	Fairfield, CA
Willy Fogg	Fortuna, CA
Morgan Griffiths	Corte Madera, CA
Richard Hendrickson	Cotati, CA
Scott Lyall	Willits, CA
Ron Plies	Fortuna, CA
Harold Rueckert	Santa Rosa, CA

HAWAIIAN DIVISION

Richard Gaspard	Honolulu, HI
-----------------	--------------

Invite your model
railroading friends to
join the NMRA - PCR.
Use the application on
page 23 of this issue
to sign them up.

**MEMBERSHIP - it's
everybody's job!**

MEMBERSHIP

By Carl "Tiny" Carsten
PCR Membership Promotion Chair-
person

To begin with I would like to thank all the conscientious members who gave up their time to help with membership booths at the shows this past quarter, the GATS shows, Greenberg Shows and International Railfair. You all did your best in helping me and I certainly appreciate all the help I can get. Please remember that we still have numerous GATS shows scheduled for 1998 (Jan 24 & 25 in Sacramento, February 13 & 14 in Daly City and March 13 & 14 in Stockton as well as another Greenberg Show next December 5 and 6, 1998.

As President Charlie Getz says, "Carl needs help". And I agree with him, I do. That is at all the shows I have us signed up for and so far they have all been authorized as listed. We really need more new members and with the new dues increase it might be harder to convince people, so we have to try harder.

So far membership is steady with a few ups and downs but is in a holding pattern. Lets not let it slip. Renew as soon as you get your notice. I thank you.

The annual PCR Convention is one of your most valuable member benefits. Sign up for '98 now! See pages 12-18!

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

as of December 1, 1997

	<u>REG</u>	<u>FAM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DAYLIGHT	107	15	122
COAST	580	32	612
SIERRA	184	12	196
REDWOOD EMPIRE	128	9	137
HAWAIIAN	13	0	13
OUT OF REGION	<u>120</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>122</u>
TOTAL	1132	70	1202

QUILT BLOCKS

PSSST!...pass this on to a sewing person in the house.

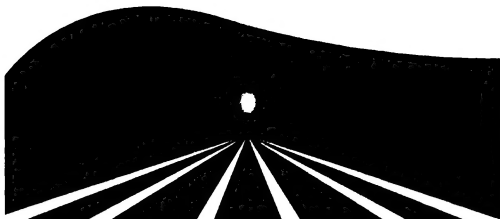
We're gathering quilt blocks again this year for a railroad quilt to be auctioned off at the PCR business meeting in May at the Convention. Blocks need to be 8 1/2 inches square. Please leave me 1/4 of an inch for seams. Anything railroad is a good idea. Blocks can be appliqued or pieced. If you have any questions, please contact me at the below numbers. Deadline is March 1st, 1998.

Thanks:

Debbie "Spike" Joyner
10663 Basie Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916-852-8336 voice
916-852-8660 fax
Djoyner@unlimited.net

HELP NEEDED:

Donate Athern or MDC type cars for the Valley Zephyr '98 Convention Youth Clinic. See page 14 for details and help Seth Milam with this valuable event.



21st CENTURY LIMITED

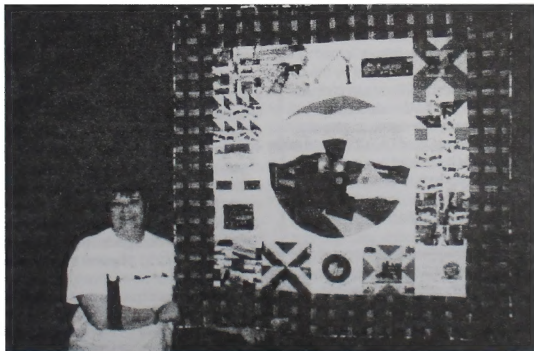
S A N J O S E , C A
N M R A 2 0 0 0

21st CENTURY LIMITED RECRUITING

Recruiting for manpower volunteers at the 2000 Nation Convention in San Jose started with the last issue of the Branch Line. Some individuals had previously volunteered and others volunteered as a result of the article in the Branch Line. Regardless of when they volunteered, I want to thank the following people:

Paul Deis, Mel Foster, George Gibson, Jim Long, and Mark Pizarek.

If you want to volunteer, please call me at (510) 656-4256. If you are the one person who called and I lost track of you, please call again. Thanks, Dave Biondi

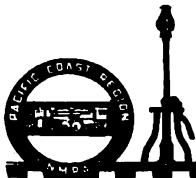


Debbie Joyner exhibits the wonderful quilt she created in 1997 with patches from many PCR members. It was raffled off during the Annual Meeting and Barbara Wall was the lucky winner. See above for how you can help Debbie with a quilt again this year and become a part of PCR history.

Photo by Dave Connery

(EDITORS DESK continued from page 22)

A second thought I had from the "Defeating Winter" article relates to how we operate our miniature pikes. While a snow scene would be a terrific attention grabber, it may not easily fit in on many layouts. Showing how your railroad fights winter doesn't require an actual snow storm. Emulate winter operations by sending out a double headed snow plow just before every train to clear the line. Getting these extras out into the "mountains" and back would add greatly to operational complexity. Recognize the reduced efficiency of steam locomotives in cold and the drag added from fighting the snow by lowering the rating of your locomotives pulling power during "winter" operating sessions. Schedule delays and have crews go "off the law" at inappropriate locations, when they had exceeded the work hour rules. It may seem like havoc but if your operating crew are real railroaders they'll deal with the miniature winter problems with the same positive reaction prototype railroaders do.



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

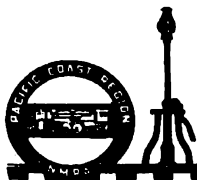
A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

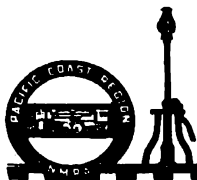
A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover



BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

USPS 870-060 ISSN 07449771

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 1998

FOUNDINGS FROM THE PREZ

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President & Trustee

The Board of Directors of the PCR met recently and the meeting went extremely smoothly. In fact the entire region appeared to be running smoothly and for that I thank each and every one of you. This is an organization run by volunteers and we have the best volunteers in all of the National Model Railroad Association. Election time is coming and I hope that if you have not volunteered to serve your fellow modelers and friends in the PCR you will consider doing so. If you are serving and have decided to run for re-election, my thanks because you make this organization function.

In that spirit, I have noted a real increase in help on the membership promotion level at Greenberg and GAT Shows. I feel chagrined that so many wonderful members are helping Tiny Carstens and I have yet to volunteer to help at either of these shows.

Lee Johnson has volunteered to be our new "S" scale coordinator, Neil Chicazolla has offered to act as "O" scale coordinator and Andy Reichert has agreed to be our "Traction" coordinator. In case you are interested in the function of coordinator, it is literally that—coordinate any interest in those groups with PCR. Thus if "S" scale members wish to form a SIG or wish to be hooked up with other "S" scale members or clubs, a call to Lee Johnson would be in order. Similarly, if you are in "O" scale or traction and wish to discuss "O" scale or traction issues, Neil and Andy are your men, respectively. To reach Lee, call 510-943-1590. Neil can be reached at 650-592-5555 and Andy on 408-406-1017. Thanks to Lee, Neil and Andy for your volunteer efforts.

We should be starting our first round of experimental "in-home clinics" in Coast Division soon, as organized by Ted Culotta. Kudos to Ted for his work and to the clinicians.

Finally a word about the dues increase. Some members were a little bit miffed not so much at the increase, which is necessary to keep up with inflation, but perceived lack of communication in the Bulletin that an increase was coming. I have expressed those concerns to the board and will raise these at our mid-year meeting later this month. A few members sent in their renewal amount at the old \$30 dollar level only to find themselves "pro-rated" at the new \$32 rate. NMRA President,

Bob Charles, has acknowledged that this practice was a public relations mistake and has apologized for any ill feelings. A lot of these problems will be ironed out once our computer system is fully functional. The system is installed in Chattanooga and the software is going through the debugging and training phase. We are hoping for major improvements in member service handling once this system is fully up and running.

It is always a pleasure to hear from PCR members so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My office number is given in the Callboard simply because voicemail is always available.

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTORS

SEE PAGES 8, 9 AND 10

Remove ballot and vote today!

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

Apr. 29 - May 3 1998

PCR CONVENTION in MODESTO

A Complete Section appears in this issue

See pages 12 thru 18

- Register NOW! -

ISSUE INDEX

Presidents Report	Front Cover
Roster of Officials	2
Traction Report	3
Product Review	4
Achievement Department	5
Division & Club Activities	6-7
Director Candidate Statements	8
Division Director Ballot	9-10
Membership Department	11
1998 PCR Convention	12-18
21st Century Limited	19
Division Reports	20-21
Editorial	22
Applications	23
Coming Events	Back Cover